

Eye on Nine: Keeping You Informed

From the Office of District 9 Councilman, Carroll W. Schubert

FY 2005 BUDGET PASSED

Working out a municipal budget in a democracy can be a difficult, often frustrating, exercise in compromise. The long session Thursday night (9-16-04) was just that.

As you may know, I did not feel comfortable with last year's budget, and voted against it. This year though, I was pleased with the overall direction of the budget and was able to vote for its passage. We accomplished several positive things in this budget:

- I did succeed in getting a half million dollars for the critical Hardy Oak connector road in Stone Oak.
- I voted to keep our firefighters at full strength.
- The Symphony was also on my list of protected projects. I did, however, make it clear that I expect them to do a good job of leveraging funds from other sources. The City does not need to be its only means of funding. I also expect the Symphony members to do a great job of being stewards of the chance we have given them.
- There was also funding to help the Witte Museum continue its free day of admission, which is one of the things that makes it a world class museum.

I was not able to completely do away with the Human Development slush fund, but I was able to keep it from getting any larger. I protected several things from being gutted in order to add to the slush fund such as education, health, and income tax preparation help for lower income families. I have resolved if I cannot eliminate the slush fund, I will use mine just as I did last year: primarily for college scholarships for deserving young men and women.

I did get a commitment to work toward six million extra dollars for our streets and roads but could not get it guaranteed. This will depend on the Mayor's ability to leverage his influence on the CPS board to let us use a portion of their set aside funds for underground conversion. I will do my best to make this commitment to roads and streets a success.

Of course, I wish we could have funded every single one of District 9's needs, but that is the nature of compromise. I promise now to do everything I can to make sure we follow through on our pledge to you, our taxpayers, to make the best possible use of your money and your trust.

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